

# Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute.

(INCORPORATED).

FOR THE TRAINING OF COLORED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN.

*Tuskegee, Ala.,*

Grand Union Hotel, New York,

April 9th, 1897.

Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, D. D.,

Tougaloo, Miss.

My dear sir:-

I am sorry to be so long in answering yours of March 27th, but it had to be forwarded to me from Tuskegee and I have been away from my mail much recently. My secretary writes me however, that he has sent you some printed matter from Tuskegee which I hope will answer your purpose in a small way. I will say however, that I think a mistake is made sometimes by schools not taking hold of the people just as they are rather than waiting for them to reach a certain ideal position; for example, during the first year at Tuskegee our Bible department was composed almost exclusively of the ministers within a radius of five miles about us. We had the three colored ministers in the town of Tuskegee and many of them who had little churches on the outside. Some of these ministers could hardly read and some did not remain with us very long finding the effort to improve their condition too hard, but nevertheless the getting hold of these ministers gave us a foundation. They advertised what we were doing among their



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C. H. No. 2.

*Tuskegee, Ala.,*

fellow ministers and in that way the opportunity that we were giving soon became known throughout that section; the result is that this year we have had an enrollment of 62 and an average attendance of between 40 and 50. Two of the colored ministers in the town of Tuskegee have finished the course in our department, and the next year promises to have a still larger enrollment.

I wish very much you could see your way clear to visit Tuskegee on your way South next year, I think it might prove of some advantage for you to see our work. The minister who can go to his church in the country district with not only a knowledge of the Bible, but with a theoretical and practical knowledge of agriculture can be made immensely helpful to our people. Those in our Bible department study for a half day and work at some industry during the other portion of the day, in this way they get the spirit and knowledge of our industrial work which they take into their ministerial work afterward.

I wish my time would permit me to write you more fully in regard to this work for which I feel very deeply. Please feel free to call upon me for any assistance which I can render at any time.

Yours truly,

*Booker T. Washington*



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